Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 5387 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI, ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BONN, BRUSSELS, CARACAS, DHAHRAN, DOHA, GENEVA, JAKARTA, KUWAIT, LAGOS, LIBREVILLE, LONDON, PARIS, QUITO, RIYADH, TEHRAN, TOKYO, TRIPOLI AND VIENNA JUL 23.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 5387

PASS TREASURY FOR SOLOMON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI VIEW ON OPEC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR PRICE BASKET

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH ABDUL AZIZ QURAISHI, GOVERNOR OF SAMA, UNDERSECRETARY COOPER BROUGHT UP THE OPEC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION THAT APPEARED IN THE MORNING PRESS TO PEG OIL PPRICES TO A BASKET OF CURRENCIES IN ORDER TO OFFSET LOSSES OCCASIONED BY THE DECLINE OF THE DOLLAR. IN RESPONSE ABDUL AZIZ QURAISHI STATED THAT THIS WAS MERELY A RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IN THE OPEC ORGANIZATION BUT THAT FINAL DECISION WOULD REST WITH THE MINISTERIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF OPEC. HE STATED THAT SAG POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO A BASKET APPROACH TO PRICING REMAINS UNCHANGED, BUT FEELS INCREASINGLY ISOLATED WITH 12 OPEC COUNTRIES FAVORING THE CHANGE. HE ALSO INDICATED SAG EXPECTED CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES FOR A PRICE INCREASE AT END OF YEAR.

2. REGARDING OPEC MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE CONVENED FOR ANY PRICE INCREASE, ALTHOUGH ONE COULD BE CALLED BY THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN BEFOREHAND, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET UNTIL DECEMBER. WES UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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TAGS: ENRG, SA, OPEC

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